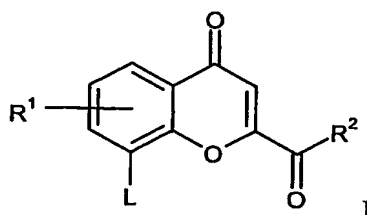


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## CLAIMS

1. A process of preparing a compound of formula I:



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wherein

R¹ is selected from H, C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl, halogen, amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxy, or hydroxy;

L is a displaceable group selected from bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo; and

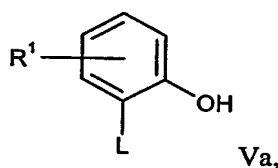
R² is selected from H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-carbonyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxy and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxycarbonyl optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, amino and hydroxy;

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comprising:

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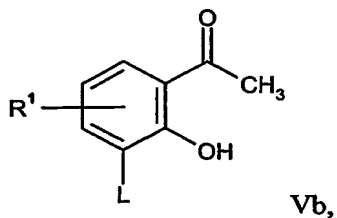
A) heating a mixture of a compound of formula Va:



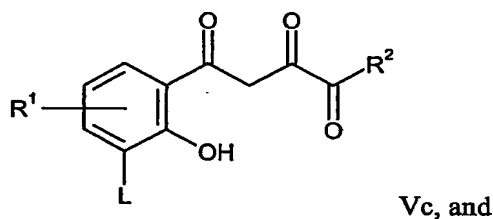
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and acetylating agent in the presence of a Lewis acid catalyst at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vb:

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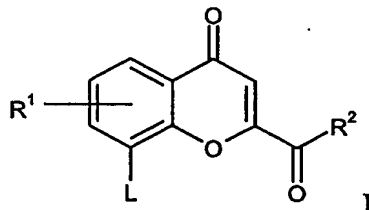


B) combining the compounds of formula Vb and a dicarbonyl compound to an alcohol solution at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vc:



C) heating the compound of formula Vc with a mixture of acids at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula I.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein R¹ is, independently, hydrogen or fluoro.
3. A process according to claim 1, wherein R² is, independently, H, C₁-₆alkyl, C₁-₆alkyl-oxy or hydroxy.
4. A process according to claim 1, wherein L is bromo.
5. A process of preparing a compound of formula I:



wherein

R¹ is selected from H, C₁-₁₀alkyl, halogen, amino, C₁-₆alkyl-oxy, or hydroxy;

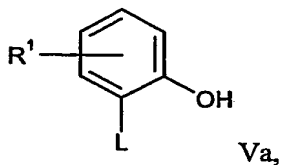
L is a displaceable group selected from bromo, chloro, fluoro or iodo; and

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$R^2$  is selected from H,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, halogen, hydroxy, amino,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-amino,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-carbonyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-oxy and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-oxycarbonyl optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, amino and hydroxy;

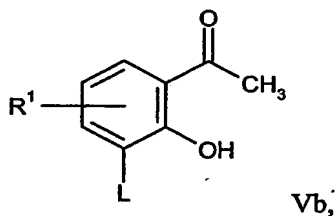
5 comprising:

A) heating a mixture of a compound of formula Va:



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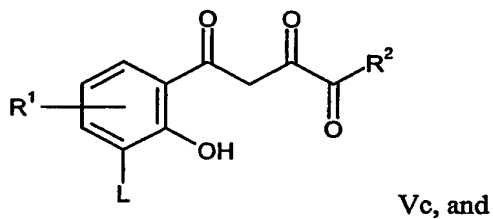
and acetyl chloride in the presence of either aluminum chloride or zirconium tetrachloride at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vb:



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B) combining the compounds of formula Vb and diethyl oxalate to a solution of sodium ethoxide in absolute ethanol at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula Vc:

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C) heating the compound of formula Vc with a mixture of acetic acid and hydrochloric acid at a temperature and for a time effective to give compounds of formula I.

- 5      6. A process according to claim 5, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is, independently, hydrogen or fluoro.
7. A process according to claim 5, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is, independently, H, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-oxy or hydroxy.
8. A process according to claim 5, wherein L is bromo.

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